

County board to study proposed psychiatric facilities

By Douglas D. Palmer
Deseret News staff writer

MURRAY — Would proposed free-standing psychiatric facilities be willing to serve the public patient in addition to the private, paying patients? Would such facilities contribute to spiraling health-care costs?

Those are some of the questions Salt Lake County Mental Health Executive Board members and their staff, who met in Mental Health Division offices in Murray, say they would ask if requested to take a position on facilities proposed for Salt Lake County, adding that they intend to find out more about the proposals.

Public patients are government-subsidized and are receiving care either voluntarily or because they have been committed by the courts.

Several health-care entities have proposed free-standing facilities for Salt Lake and Utah counties. IHC Hospitals Inc., a subsidiary of Intermountain Health Care, had announced plans for a 60-bed speciality facility on the grounds of Cottonwood Hospital in Murray.

Psychiatric facilities are usually part of a general hospital, but the most recent proposal called for psychiatric units separate from other hospital services.

That and other proposals must be ap-

proved by the state Health Planning and Development Agency. All proposals must go through what is called the certificate-of-need process. Among other things, that process is designed to curtail rising health-care costs associated with new facilities, programs and equipment.

Board members and their staff emphasized they have not taken a position on the IHC or other proposals. But, expressing concern about rising health costs and the extent to which public patients would be served, the officials indicated they intend to learn more about the proposals.

The board said it may seek information from a Salt Lake Area Chamber of Com-

merce committee studying rising health-care costs, the Utah Health Cost Management Foundation and the state insurance commissioner's office.

The 60-bed IHC speciality facility would be built in several units, permitting separate treatment of children, adolescents and adults.

Dr. David E. Dangerfield, county mental health director, said the county doesn't need more psychiatric beds for adults, but more beds are needed for adolescents and children.

In their announcement, IHC officials said the Cottonwood addition would not add health-care beds to the Salt Lake Valley. A

transfer of psychiatric beds from LDS, another IHC-operated facility, and Cottonwood hospitals would provide the 60-bed complement.

Dangerfield said the IHC proposal has some attractive features, which would include moving facilities for adults and youths to Murray, a more central Salt Lake County location. There would be more beds for adolescents and children and the same number of adult beds, but in a better location, he said.

The social worker said the county division now contracts with Pioneer Valley Hospital in West Valley City for 10 in-patient beds for adults and with the University Medical Center.



UTAH CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Called 7-5-84
Rec'd 7-9-84
Tel 02 80

May 23, 1984

Douglas L Merkley
Wasatch District Superintendent
173 East 2nd North
Heber City, UT 84032


Dear Superintendent Merkley,

The Utah Chiropractic Association is currently involved in a program of providing scoliosis screening as a public service. It is our intent to expand our program to include students in the middle school years (grades 6, 7, 8). It is not our intention to interfere with any programs that are currently functioning.

Utah Chiropractic Association President, Dr. Bruce Gundersen, has had dialogue with Utah's Associate Superintendent, Dr. McCarty, who has given his approval to contact you. With your approval, we would like to approach the local P.T.A.'s and school principals with our offer. May we obtain from you a list of the current elementary, junior high, or middle school principals and the corresponding president(s) of the P.T.A.(s)?

Thank you for the consideration of our program, and for your potential help in getting it under way. A local member of the UCA will contact you for your response.

Sincerely,


Bruce Gundersen, D.C.
President, UCA

BG/aw